Holding of SO 'grade' exam

504. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group-B Assistants of Central Secretariat Services are being deprived of promotion to Section Officer Grade by way of not holding the Section Officer Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken to hold this and onward Examinations;

(c) whether there is any stay order by any court of law on holding the Examination, 2006; and

(d) if not, then by when it is going to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The matter relating to eligibility of Stenographers of the Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS) to appear for the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE), 2005 at the Section Officers' Grade of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) is subjudice at present. Accordingly, it has been decided not to participate in the LDCE 2006 till the matter is finally settled.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Regulation 4 under the CSS Rules 1962, which provides for the Stenographers Grade 'C' of the Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS) to be eligible for the said examination, was quashed by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Principal Bench, New Delhi on 25.5.2007. The same has been challenged in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, by the Association of the CSSS, and the matter is presently subjudice. Holding the LDCE for 2006 and beyond, would add to further litigation, if examinations are held without settling the basic issue.

Poverty scenario

505. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NSS 61st Round Survey (2004-05) has revealed 29.13 per cent Rural Population, 7.13 per cent Urban Population, constituting 25 crore persons were subsisting on less than Rs. 12 per day, 9.9 per cent Rural Population, 4 per cent Urban Population, constituting 9 crore persons, were surviving on less than Rs. 9 per day, per capita consumption expenditure of 60.5 per cent of the population was less than Rs. 20 per day constituting 66.2 crore persons and population below International Poverty line was 34.3 per cent in India, 5.6 per cent in Sri Lanka, 9.9 per cent in China, 17.0 per cent in Pakistan; and

(b) does the above not reveal a horrendous poverty scenario in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Based on information available in the report no. 508 (61/1.0/1), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-2005", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004 - June 2005) brought out by